

The Electric Mercury

U.S. Army Medical Command Electronic News Summary, May 2001

**For more on these and other important stories, see May 2001 printed issue of The Mercury.
This is a service of the Public Affairs Office, Headquarters MEDCOM.**

New TRICARE benefits on schedule

Many of the new TRICARE benefits in the 2001 National Defense Authorization Act will be phased in over the next six to 12 months. Among them are TRICARE coverage for school-required physicals, reimbursement for certain travel expenses for TRICARE Prime beneficiaries, and reduction of retiree catastrophic caps. Meanwhile, TRICARE Management Activity urges patients to save receipts and other claims-related paperwork from October 2000 on, in order to put in claims later for retroactive reimbursement.

TRICARE...Your Health-Care System

A graphic display summarizes points that military medical personnel should stress when explaining TRICARE to beneficiaries, including TRICARE's major advantages, recent improvements and goals. Accompanied by a glossary of key TRICARE terminology.

'Dangerous' dog breeds restricted in Europe

Getting ready for a permanent change of station to Germany and planning on bringing "Fido" along? Check with your local military Veterinary Treatment Facility first! Several states in Germany have instituted "Dangerous Dogs Ordinances." Depending on breed and location, your dog may be subject to special requirements and restrictions or you may not be able to bring "man's best friend" along with you at all. Since breeds affected and rules may change, check with your installation vet for current rules. Some other countries also have restrictions on certain breeds.

Balanced Score Card shows links

Balanced Score Card Strategy Map is presented and explained by The Surgeon General and MEDCOM Commander LTG James B. Peake, in his monthly column. He notes that the map is selective rather than comprehensive, highlighting "critical success areas where I believe we have significant room to improve and are so critical to our success that everyone ought to consider how they support their improvement and where we must place drive with resources, accountability and emphasis."

Other important stories in the May *Mercury* include:

- Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, treats three service members wounded in a Kuwait bombing accident that killed six others, including a Special Forces medic.
- AMEDD Virtual Library gives MEDCOM members an array of medical databases, which can be accessed through <http://www.armymedicine.army.mil/medcom/medlinet>
- Get accredited continuing-education through SWANK, via CD-ROMs, videos, satellite broadcasts, Internet. Visit <http://www.swankhealth.com> or call 1-800-950-4248.
- U.S. Army Medical Materiel Agency replaces 50 legacy systems with SAP, a single integrated, organization-wide software system offering best commercial practices.
- Three Walter Reed Army Institute of Research scientists take zero-gravity ride in a NASA aircraft to confirm that a cell-culture module works in weightlessness.
- Army and Air Force medical, dental, veterinary and preventive-medicine personnel from Joint Task Force-Bravo help over 9,000 Salvadorans following earthquakes.
- Army veterinarians brave frigid winter squalls to care for sled dogs in Alaskan wilds.
- The Surgeon General honors four physicians. COL Lawrence Burgess wins Lewis Aspey Mologne Award for Military Academic Excellence. Physician Recognition Awards go to LTC Jay Carlson, MAJ Karen Lynne Della-Giustina and CPT John Barrett.
- Support Command medics from Fort Hood, Texas, test Medical Communications for Combat Casualty Care and Movement Tracking System in simulated combat.
- Madigan Army Medical Center nurse Editha “Edie” Ruiz, only player to win Armed Forces tennis titles in both Navy and Army, dreams of becoming All-Army tennis coach.
- SGT LaDonna Jenkins, medical supply NCO, wins International Poet of Merit Award.
- Fort Jackson, S.C., MEDDAC employee uses Internet to find her long-lost brother.
- Photos: Gallery of Sergeants Major of the Army by a Fort Detrick photographer; high-school students “job-shadow” SSG Nancy Gray at AMEDD Center and School; MAJ Isabel Good does combat-survival swim in Reserve training; overhead shot shows long shadow cast by Expert Field Medical Badge candidate demonstrating fireman’s carry.
- On comments page, MEDCOM leaders are urged to submit nominations for AMSUS awards program; a commentary reminds readers to heed bird-protection laws; and a letter-to-the-editor challenges a photo in which medics failed to wear gloves.
- Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine warns against weight-loss hype.